Forest Marshall chosen

J. Forest Marshall

J. Forest Marshall of Appomattox has been elected to the Boys' Home board of trustees of Covington, Va. He is a former resident of Boys' Home, from 1945 to 1950.

Marshall is a graduate of Covington High School and National Business College. He also has attended University of Virginia Extension and Virginia Western Community College. He has served in the Air Force, spending most of his time in Germany with USAFE.

He is married to the former Geraldine Culbertson, and is employed by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Turner completes course

Mary Gouldin Turner, of Appomattox, has recently completed a summer short course in physics at Virginia Military Institute.

The two-week course, which was open to high school and college teachers of physics, focused on the effective use of lecture demonstrations and experiments in the classroom. The program is sponsored this year under a Grants for Excellence program of the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia.

This summer's program, the eleventh course given at VMI, was attended by 40 teachers from 17 states. The special course was developed at the Institute by two physics professors whose innovative teaching methods have given school teachers nationwide an opportunity to improve their classroom techniques in lecture demonstrations.

Turner, a mathematics and physics teacher at Appomattox County High School, is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma education Honorary and the American Association of Physics Teachers.

AARP schedules picnic

The Pamplin Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons will hold their annual picnic Aug. 16 at 6:30 p.m., on the grounds of Horace Coleman's Seven Springs Farm.

All members and their families are invited to attend. Participants are asked to bring a covered dish. If the day is stormy, the picnic will be held at the United Methodist Church in Pamplin.

The South 40

Concern expressed about nitrate levels

By JAMES A. SMITH
Extension Agent

There is concern about nitrate levels in this drought-stricken corn. In recent days we have shipped a number of samples for laboratory analysis. Results from two samples show one at 1.75 percent nitrate, the other .09 percent nitrate. At the 1.50 percent level, this is considered fatal. Of course, the amount consumed is the critical point. So your corn may or may not be toxic.

How will you utilize the estimated 3000 acres of corn? Much of this corn will probably not have enough grain to pay picking costs. There are two ways corn can be stored. One is chop and store in conventional silos or stock pile on top of the ground and cover with black plastic and old automobile tires. Second, corn can be harvested with a "haybine" or similar equipment and rolled into large bales. Before rolling the corn does need to be wilted to prevent mold growth in the bale. If a "haybine" or similar equipment is used to cut corn, be sure to open the conditioners to allow for the larger stress to pass through.

Baled corn likely will not tolerate extended exposure to weather as well as grass hay, therefore it should be fed first.

Now--don't rush into harvesting the corn as silage or hay. There is a lot of water in the main stem. If there is any nitrate accumulation, it will be lowered by delaying harvest. When saying this, I'm well aware that some corn has some brown leaves at the bottom of the stalk.

* * *

The dry weather is magnifying the potato leaf hopper problem in alfalfa. One field examined last week was heavily infested and showed considerable amounts of yellowing.

Alfalfa is flowering, but not high enough to rake. Never-the-less it needs to be mowed. The mowing should cause the potato leaf hoppers to move out of the alfalfa.

* * *

We are receiving frequent price offerings for wheat from a grain purchaser in Lynchburg. If you need this price information, give our office a call.

* * *

There were three summer cattle sales during the week of July 22 at Harrisonburg, Marshall and Winchester.

The 1509 steers averaged 800 pounds and brought $59.26, while the 705 heifers weighing 638 pounds averaged $51.22.

Cattle prices are a real concern.

* * *

Several beef cattle owners have inquired about the purchase of "The Virginia Cow-Calf Handbook."

It has been under revision. The new revision will be available September 1 for $20.00. It includes a hardback three-ring notebook with convenient dividers for the subject matter areas plus, all fact sheets available now and any additional ones prepared or revised for three (3) years after January 1, 1984.

If you would like a copy, pick up an order form from this office.

* * *

The National Pork Producers Council have a strong effort underway to do something about the price of hogs. The attractive slick brochure asks "Can you afford $35 hogs this fall?" They compare this price with September '82 hogs selling for $61.58 and June, 1983 hogs at $45.65.

These agressive check-off programs and details of how they will use the funds should make "cents" to the hog producer.

* * *

When asked whether one should seed ryegrass for grazing -- we have generally suggested that the cereal rye be seeded because it makes more fall and early winter growth than ryegrass. Rye is also less likely to appear later as a weed and makes a better sod for no-til planting.

Two years' test in Towan County, North Carolina has three ryegrass varieties (Marshall, Tetragreen and Tetra-81) producing more dry matter than Abruzzi Rye. Marshall produced 7754 pounds, Tetragreen 5319 lbs, Tetra-81 5770 lbs. and Abruzzi Rye 4660 lbs.

* * *

Have you been observing the no-til planted corn. It generally looks much better than conventional planted corn.

* * *

Short grass means less milk from these beef cows--creep feeding will make a difference this year.

FFA sponsors trip

The Appomattox County Future Farmers of America Chapters sponsored a trip to Smithfield, Virginia FFA Leadership Camp for six of the chapters members last week.

Of the members attending were Howard Anderson, Executive Committee Chairman, and Larry Harris, Reporter, both of the Appomattox Senior FFA Chapter.

Also, four rising eighth-graders attended. They were Tim Cheatham, Jeff Folkes, Ted Layne and Rick Pack, all members of the Appomattox Junior FFA Chapter.

Advisor Barry Sauls of the Appomattox Junior FFA Chapter accompanied the group.

Each member was enrolled in several classes. "The Right Impression" was a class consisting of how to be polite and courteous to others. "Planning for an Effective Year" gave the members a chance to express their ideas for the upcoming 1983-84 year. "Parliamentary Procedure" and "Public Speaking" gave the members a chance to properly conduct a meeting and speak to a group with enthusiasm and confidence.

Dinner theatre set

"I DO I DO", a musical about marriage, will be the fourth production, and the first dinner theatre presentation of Depot Dramatics.

The play, written by Schmidt and Jones, and directed by Deborah L. Rush will be presented on August 19 and 20 in the Appomattox County High School cafeteria. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. and curtian time will be 8:30.

Tickets are available in advance (limited seating), at Barbara's Shoppe on Main Street. Admission for adults is $10.00, includes meal and play and children under eight, $5.00 (meal and play).

The character of Agnes will be portrayed by Tamara Nash, and Michael will be played by David Caldwell.

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